

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 27, 2010

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable on October 12-13, 2010

On October 12-13, 2010, the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) will host its fall 2010 meeting. The first day will consist of a dinner and reception from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The second day will consist of a series of meetings, including breakfast and lunch, from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at The National Academies in Washington, D.C.

Approximately 100 people have been invited and 65 are expected to attend. The theme of the meeting is "Geoengineering: Contemplating the Issues and the Need for Research." The event will be attended by representatives from other Federal agencies, congressmen and staff, state and local government officials, industry, and academia. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange information regarding various Agency science missions related to the field of geoengineering. Moreover, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. NASA invitees should not accept any gift items distributed at the event which exceed the \$20 cap.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone